

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 227

July 23, 1996, 3:48 pm
Page S-8505 Temp. Record

WELFARE REFORM RECONCILIATION/Welfare for Immigrant Children

SUBJECT: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 . . . S. 1956. Exon motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Exon (for Kennedy) amendment No. 4955.

ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 51-48

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1956, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, will enact major welfare reforms. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program will be replaced with a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to the States. The TANF block grant will be capped through 2001. Time limits will be placed on individuals receiving TANF benefits. Overall, the growth in non-Medicaid welfare spending will be slowed to 4.3 percent annually. The bill originally included major Medicaid reforms, but most of those provisions were stricken when the bill was reported. Without those Medicaid reforms, welfare spending will still be reduced by \$61.4 billion over 6 years.

The Exon (for Kennedy) amendment would exempt immigrant children from the restrictions on immigrants receiving welfare benefits. Under the bill, legal permanent residents already in the United States will be ineligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and food stamps until they attain citizenship, and States will have the option of restricting Federal cash benefits, Medicaid, and Title XX Social Services benefits. For legal immigrants who come to the United States after the date of enactment of this Act, the bill will bar them from receiving SSI, food stamps, cash welfare, Medicaid, and Title XX Social Services benefits for the first 5 years that they are in the United States. The amendment would not provide any means of offsetting its cost.

Following debate, Senator Domenici raised the point of order that the amendment violated the Budget Act. Senator Exon then moved to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to waive favored the amendment; those opposing the motion to waive opposed the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to waive contended:

Banning assistance to the children of legal immigrants when they are in need will unfairly harm those children and will cause

(See other side)

| YEAS (51) | | | NAYS (48) | | | NOT VOTING (1) | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|---|------------------|
| Republicans (6 or 12%) | Democrats (45 or 96%) | | Republicans (46 or 88%) | Democrats (2 or 4%) | | Republicans (1) | Democrats (0) |
| Campbell | Akaka | Johnston | Abraham | Hutchison | Byrd | Kassebaum- ⁴ | |
| Chafee | Baucus | Kennedy | Ashcroft | Inhofe | Heflin | | |
| Cohen | Biden | Kerrey | Bennett | Kempthorne | | | |
| Hatfield | Bingaman | Kerry | Bond | Kyl | | | |
| Jeffords | Boxer | Kohl | Brown | Lott | | EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE: 1—Official Buisiness 2—Necessarily Absent 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Announced Yea AN—Announced Nay PY—Paired Yea PN—Paired Nay | |
| Specter | Bradley | Lautenberg | Burns | Lugar | | | |
| | Breaux | Leahy | Coats | Mack | | | |
| | Bryan | Levin | Cochran | McCain | | | |
| | Bumpers | Lieberman | Coverdell | McConnell | | | |
| | Conrad | Mikulski | Craig | Murkowski | | | |
| | Daschle | Moseley-Braun | D'Amato | Nickles | | | |
| | Dodd | Moynihan | DeWine | Pressler | | | |
| | Dorgan | Murray | Domenici | Roth | | | |
| | Exon | Nunn | Faircloth | Santorum | | | |
| | Feingold | Pell | Frahm | Shelby | | | |
| | Feinstein | Pryor | Frist | Simpson | | | |
| | Ford | Reid | Gorton | Smith | | | |
| | Glenn | Robb | Gramm | Snowe | | | |
| | Graham | Rockefeller | Grams | Stevens | | | |
| | Harkin | Sarbanes | Grassley | Thomas | | | |
| | Hollings | Simon | Gregg | Thompson | | | |
| | Inouye | Wellstone | Hatch | Thurmond | | | |
| | | Wyden | Helms | Warner | | | |

Compiled and written by the staff of the Republican Policy Committee—Larry E. Craig, Chairman

tremendous problems for our Nation in the future. Legal immigrants play by the rules and pay their taxes. Most will become citizens someday, as will their children. However, under this bill, when they fall on hard times they will be banned from receiving any help. This ban will have grave consequences for immigrant children and for other Americans. When they become ill, they will not seek help until they qualify for emergency medical treatment. In the meantime, when they have infectious diseases, they will pose an extreme health hazard to other children with whom they come in contact. Further, if they do not receive the nutritional and medical treatment they need when they grow up, they will likely suffer from a lifetime of anemia, stunted growth, and even permanent brain damage. These children are going to be citizens; when they are, we want them to be able to contribute to America. If we do not take care of them now, though, they may end up permanently disabled and when they become citizens they will have to be taken care of by the Government for the rest of their lives. Many immigrant families have some children who are not citizens because they were born overseas, and they have other children who are citizens because they were born in America. The ones born here will be entitled to benefits. Treating children in the same family differently is ridiculous. We should provide welfare to any immigrant child in need. Therefore, we urge our colleagues to support the Kennedy amendment.

Those opposing the motion to waive contended:

The Kennedy amendment would seriously erode fundamental welfare reform as it relates to noncitizens. It would apply to children who are already here and all children who might come here in the future. The bill will ban immigrants from going on welfare for the first 5 years that they are in the United States. Immigrants are not supposed to come to this country if they cannot prove that they can take care of themselves or if they do not have sponsors who have the resources and income to take care of them if need be. Immigrant children should be supported by their parents or their sponsors, not the American taxpayers. We have enough Americans in need without importing immigrants who are looking for handouts instead of opportunity. We therefore strongly urge our colleagues to oppose the motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Kennedy amendment.